

errors, and the abstract has been replaced to more closely resemble the claims. Further, a proposed drawing change is submitted by separate letter as requested in the Office Action.

Applicant acknowledges, with appreciation, the Examiner's indication that Claims 4-6 and 10-12 contain allowable subject matter. In response, the features of Claims 4-6 and 10-12 have been incorporated (in alternative form) in independent Claims 1 and 7, respectively.

Claims 1-3 and 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by the Herz patent. It is submitted that independent Claims 1 and 7, at least in the form presented herein, are patentably distinguishable from Herz.

Contrary to Claim 1, for example, the applied portions of Herz do not teach or suggest an information retrieval method that includes at least the following:

“forming a group user model on the basis of said plurality of specific user models and retrieving information based on the group user model, wherein said group user model is formed by a maximum value mode, minimum value mode or average value mode for selecting the maximum value, minimum value or average value, respectively, of said plurality of specific user models.”

The above-noted deficiency of Herz is believed to have been recognized in the Office Action's statement of allowable subject matter.

Amended apparatus Claim 7 as well as newly presented method Claim 13 are patentable over Herz for analogous reasons. The remaining claims are patentable based at least upon their respective dependencies from Claims 1, 7 or 13.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, entry of this amendment, and the allowance of this application with Claims 1, 3-7 and 9-16 are respectfully solicited.

In regard to the claims amended herein, it is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112. Changes to these claims, as

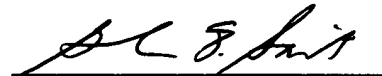
presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

In the event that additional cooperation in this case may be helpful to complete its prosecution, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number written below.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version With Markings to Show Changes Made.**"

Respectfully submitted,
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION;

The second full paragraph on page 1 has been replaced with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In a satellite broadcasting system [that] in which television programs are transmitted to an audience via a broadcasting satellite, a television signal is digitized and a [huge amount] large number of programs are transmitted at the same time. Such a system increases the number of programs from which an audience [should] may select.--

The third full paragraph on page 1 has been replaced with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Moreover, in a system for providing various information from a host computer to computer terminals through the telephone line or [the] an exclusive line, a user at a terminal side selects [a necessary] desired information [among] from among a [huge] large amount of information. [and requests it] The information is requested from the host computer side.--

The paragraph bridging pages 1 and 2 has been replaced with the following rewritten paragraph:

--When an audience or a user tries to select a television program or the information on a computer, there is a problem that the retrieval operation of the audience or user becomes complicated. That is, since a desired program or information must be retrieved from among [from] a [huge amount] large number of programs or information [so that] it is difficult to select a [necessary] desired program or information easily.--